

Joint Statement of the Third Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation

Beijing, China

June 21, 2016

The Third Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation was held in Beijing, China from June 20 to 22, 2016. A total of 340 representatives, including government ministers, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Chief Executive Officer of the African Union of Broadcasting, as well as those from radio, film and television sectors of the People's Republic of China, Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comores, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunis, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe attended the forum.

The forum was jointly organized by State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China and the African Union of Broadcasting. For the implementing of the achievements at the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2015 and serving the establishment and development of China-Africa Comprehensive Strategic and Cooperative Partnership, the representatives, in the spirit of equality and mutual trust, sincerity and friendship, win-win cooperation and common development, had an extensive and profound exchange of views on "Media Policies Exchanges between China and Africa", "Media Cooperation and Capacity Building", and "Digitalization and Development of New Media" to carry on the traditional friendship, promote cultural exchanges and deepen media cooperation between China and Africa. During the forum, the Chinese side and the African side signed 15 agreements or memorandum of understanding, and agreed to the following:

1. We highly value the achievements of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, appreciate the 10 major China-Africa cooperation plans proposed by the Chinese side, and decide to, on the principles of sincerity, practical results, affinity and good faith and the correct outlook on justice and gain and under the guidance of the Declaration of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, fully implement the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018) to serve the need for the development of China-Africa Comprehensive Strategic and Cooperative Partnership and jointly usher in a new era of China-Africa win-win cooperation and common development.

2. We fully recognize the important role of the Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation. Since the founding in 2012, it has become a major platform for dialogue and an effective mechanism for practical cooperation between Chinese and African media. Under the guidance and direction of the forum, China-Africa media cooperation has entered a fast track and become better developed in structure, more abundant in content, more pluralistic in participants, and more fruitful in achievement, playing an important role in promoting the understanding of Africa by China, China by Africa and China and Africa by the rest of the world and contributing to the development of

all-round China-Africa ties in a fast and healthy manner.

3. We unanimously believe that media in developing countries shall serve national development and social progress, and become a driving force behind national modernization. They shall promote traditional culture, build national consensus, serve public interests and safeguard social stability. They shall join hands to push forward the establishment of a new model of international relations with win-win cooperation at the core, and jointly safeguard and promote international equity and justice.

4. We will, in the tradition of equal consultation and joint development and based on the solid foundation of China-African media cooperation and the platform of the Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation, encourage and support more of direct exchanges in personnel and information between China and African media, promote mutual exchange and learning between the two civilizations, so as to better serve the passing on and carrying forward the traditional friendship and the establishment and development of the Comprehensive Strategic and Cooperative Partnership between China and Africa, embark on a five-year capacity building program through training, infrastructure development and institutions building.

5. We unanimously commit, in the Silk Road Spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, learning from each other, mutual benefit and win-win results, to joint effort for bringing into play the advantages of radio, film and television in cultural and people-to-people exchanges and communication to contribute to the promoting of the initiative to jointly build the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, develop and promote national and local African contents to fully contribute to digital economy, and enhance our cooperation in cybersecurity and digitalization.

6. We unanimously hold that maintaining peace and calm in the South China Sea is of great importance to world peace, stability and development, and in the common interest of the people all over the world. African countries strongly call the related parties to peacefully resolve, through friendly consultation and negotiation, territorial and maritime disputes in accordance with bilateral agreements and relevant regional consensus, and affirm the respect to sovereign states and signatory states to the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* of their rights to choose dispute settlement approach on their own.

7. We unanimously undertake to facilitate, from inheriting and carrying forward the traditional friendship between China and Africa and jointly safeguarding international equity and justice and facilitate China-Africa cooperation in the fields of media and international communication to win more say and increase influence for us in the arena of international public opinion so as to provide favorable public opinion support for China and Africa to realize common development and our shared dreams.